

Christopher and Lana Hite House  
213-213A Coleridge Avenue  
Llysven Neighborhood  
Altoona  
Blair County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5882

11 AGS  
PA,  
7-ALTO,  
133 -

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
CHRISTOPHER AND LANA HITE HOUSE

HABS  
PA.  
7-ALTO,  
133 -  
HABS No. PA-5882

Location: 213-213A Coleridge Avenue

Date of Erection: before 1905

Description: This two-story double house has a wood-frame structure and a front-gable roof. The original wood siding is now covered with vinyl, and the facade is much altered by the modern addition of large picture windows, storm windows, and panelled doors, as well as the removal of a one-story front porch that extended to the sidewalk. A pent roof across the full width of the house now protects the entries.

History: Although the year of its construction is uncertain, this building appears on the 1909 Sanborn map as a two-story duplex with a small, split front porch and a full, one-story back porch, divided in half. Deed records show that Christopher Hite bought lot 16, block 9, from the Altoona Suburban Home Company in 1904 for \$350, and gave it to his wife, Lana, as a rental property for a Christmas present in 1928 along with a two-story dwelling (now No. 213B) and outbuildings on the same lot. In 1905 Christopher Hite was taxed for a house and lot in Llysven with an assessed value of \$1,000, reduced to \$700 upon his appeal to the county commissioners. Two years later, he was assessed for two houses and one lot, with a value of \$1,750. It is not clear whether this double house is the same structure as the 1905 house, or replaced it by 1907. The second building on the lot, No. 213B, does not appear on the 1909 Sanborn map.

James Winn, born in the 1870s in the Llysven, claimed that the duplex was originally a farmhouse that pre-dated the suburb, but no evidence was found to document this. The land on the other side of Ruskin Drive was farm acreage, and the house is eccentric among its Coleridge Avenue neighbors in its large scale, severe form (especially considering the character of Llysven houses of the first generation), and proximity to the street, which violates original deed restrictions.

Lelia (Dolly) Kennedy bought the duplex from Lana Hite in 1946, while her husband, James, a crane operator for the PRR, was out of town. The Kennedys were living in a rented duplex at 212 Logan Blvd., directly behind their new property. Because restrictions imposed upon landlords by the World War II Office of Price Administration were still in effect in 1946, they had to wait until one or the other of their tenants chose to move before they could occupy their new home. In 1947 they moved into No. 213, and for many years rented No. 213A to James A. Winn, a retired foreman for the PRR. In the early 1960s Dolly Kennedy operated a dress shop in two rooms on the second floor of No. 213, but closed it after eighteen months because she "couldn't keep hours"--her customers were her friends and neighbors, and felt free to shop at their leisure rather than according to posted hours. When Winn died in the mid 1960s, the Kennedys remodelled No. 213A and moved in there. She sold the property in 1983 and opened another in-home dress shop at 409 Logan Blvd.

Sources: Maps: 1909, 1920, 1932, 1951. City directories. Tax records. Deed books: 147/328, 378/577, 528/286, 1094/116, 1110/37, 1141/481. Interview: Dolly Kennedy Miragliotta, 409 Logan Blvd., July 23, 1989.

Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Altoona, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), Randy Cooley, director. An overview of the history of the city (HABS No. PA-5784) and an overview of Llysven (HABS No. PA-5787) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in the city and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by Kathy Edwards in the summer of 1989 under the supervision of Alison K. Hoagland, HABS historian, and Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian. Edwards's and other project historians' work was published as Railroad City: Four Historic Neighborhoods in Altoona, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1990), edited by Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian, and Sara Amy Leach, HABS historian.